

DECEMBER 2008

- **VOTERS UPHOLD TRADITIONAL DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE.**

In March 2000, California voters passed Proposition 22 (61% yes), an initiative statute limiting marriage to between a man and woman. In May 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled that the ban on same-sex marriage enacted under Proposition 22 was unconstitutional; this ruling legalized same-sex marriage. On November 4, 2008, voters passed Proposition 8 (52% yes), amending the state constitution to eliminate this right. The California Supreme Court has agreed to hear legal challenges to the same-sex marriage ban, and arguments will likely begin in March 2009.

- **OPPOSITION HIGHEST ALONG THE COAST.**

Opposition to Proposition 8 was greatest along the central and northern coast and in the San Francisco Bay Area, while support was greatest in the southern and inland areas of the state.

- **REPUBLICANS STRONGLY SUPPORT PROPOSITION 8.**

Proposition 8 was a highly partisan issue, with three in four Republicans (77%) voting yes and two in three Democrats (65%) voting no. Independents were more divided (52% yes, 48% no). There were also sharp differences between supporters of Barack Obama and John McCain. Obama supporters (30%) were much less likely than McCain supporters (85%) to vote yes on Proposition 8. Support for this ban on same-sex marriage was far greater among conservatives than liberals.

- **SUPPORT OF PROPOSITION 8 STRONGLY TIED TO RELIGION.**

Proposition 8 found strong support among voters who self identify as evangelical or born-again Christians. Evangelicals (85%) were far more likely than others (42%) to have voted yes. Proposition 8 also enjoyed strong support among Catholics (60% yes) and among Protestants (66% yes). Voters stating that they have no religion were strongly opposed to Proposition 8 (79% no).

- **OPPOSITION GREATER AMONG MORE-EDUCATED, AFFLUENT, AND YOUNGER VOTERS.**

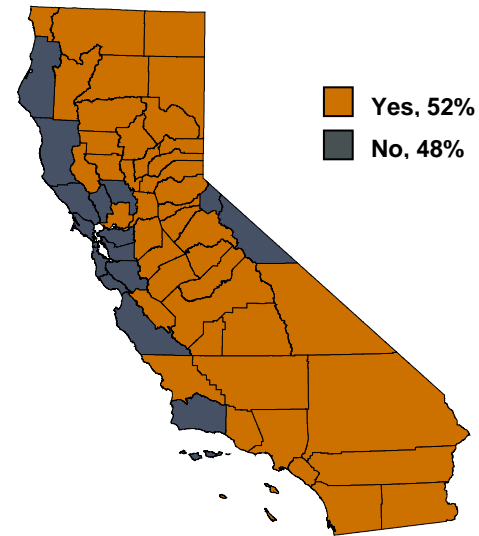
Nearly seven in 10 voters with a high school education or less, and 57% of those with only some college, supported Proposition 8, while 57% of voters with a college degree opposed the measure. Similarly, a majority of voters in lower-income households (63%), and half of those in middle-income households (52%), voted for the measure, whereas over half of those in higher-income households (55%) voted against it. Married voters (58%) were far more likely to vote yes than those who have never been married (37%). Latinos were more likely to support Proposition 8 (61% yes), while whites were divided (50% yes, 50% no). Support for the proposition increased with age.

- **ALTHOUGH PROPOSITION 8 PASSED, CALIFORNIANS REMAIN DIVIDED ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE.**

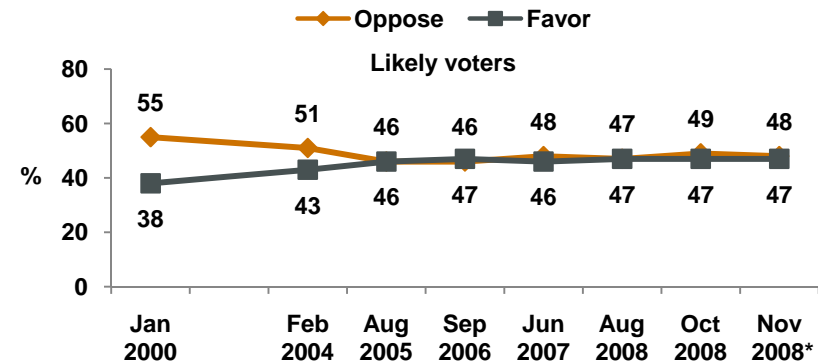
When it comes to the general idea of allowing gay and lesbian couples to be legally married in California, voters are divided (47% favor, 48% oppose). Among those voting no on Proposition 8 in the November election, only 8% are opposed to same-sex marriage—an 11-point decline from our October pre-election survey. Attitudes about same-sex marriage have remained about the same among likely voters since August 2005 (2005: 46% favor, 46% oppose; 2006: 47% favor, 46% oppose; 2007: 46% favor, 48% oppose). Opposition to same-sex marriage was greater in 2004 (43% favor, 51% oppose) and when Proposition 22 passed in 2000 (38% favor, 55% oppose).

## Proposition 8: Eliminating Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry

		Yes	No
<b>General Election Results</b>		52%	48%
<b>Party</b>	Democrat	35	65
	Republican	77	23
	Independent	52	48
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	18	82
	Moderate	50	50
	Conservative	83	17
<b>Presidential Choice</b>	Barack Obama	30	70
	John McCain	85	15
<b>Religion</b>	Evangelical Christians	85	15
	Others	42	58
<b>Education</b>	High school or less	69	31
	Some college	57	43
	College graduate	43	57
<b>Income</b>	Under \$40,000	63	37
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	52	48
	\$80,000 or more	45	55
<b>Age</b>	18–34	43	57
	35–54	50	50
	55 and older	56	44
<b>Marital Status</b>	Married	58	42
	Never been married	37	63
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	Non-white	57	43
	White	50	50



“Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to be legally married?”



\*General election voters

**Sources:** (1) PPIC Statewide Survey, December 2008, including 2,003 voters in the November 2008 General Election. (2) Data for likely voters in seven PPIC surveys from January 2000 to October 2008. (3) California Secretary of State: 2008 general election results as of 1:34 p.m., November 26, 2008.

**Contact:** [surveys@ppic.org](mailto:surveys@ppic.org)